

Good morning. Thank you for that wonderful introduction. I'd like to start by thanking the other individuals on the dais here who had far more to do with making this project a reality. Governor Hutchinson, Representative Crawford, Representative Hill, Representative Womack, Representative Westerman, Chief Justice Kemp, members of the federal judiciary, to our distinguished guests, it is a great honor to be here with all of you today as we open this beautiful federal courthouse in Little Rock.

We are thrilled to celebrate the reopening of the federal courthouse in Little Rock. This is one of the largest public building projects in GSA history, and we are pleased to see this project take an important step forward. With the completion of the new federal courthouse it's important to recognize what went into rebuilding it and to thank those who helped make it such a success.

The impressive courthouse that you are looking at today would not be possible without the hard work of the Public Building Service, both in the Little Rock region and in our central office headquarters. I would be remiss if I did not thank our private sector partners in the local community and all those who advocated for the rebuilding of the federal courthouse and made this project a success. I am proud to say that in keeping with GSA's mission, this project created hundreds of jobs for the local community. The Little Rock firms of Witsell Evans Rasco, and Cromwell Engineers did a phenomenal job of preserving the historic architectural features of the building while upgrading the amenities to the standards of the twenty first century.

When the courthouse first opened in 1881 the total construction cost was \$224,542.87. It was known as the Old Post Office and Customs House, although some referred it as the Old Federal Building. It was designed in the Italian Renaissance Revival style, and was home to the district attorney, the revenue collector and the chief clerk of the railway mail service. By the spring of 1966, the Old Post Office and Courthouse was in serious need of repair and was close to being demolished.

There was a proposal to build a courthouse annex, and a separate proposal to pass a \$2.3 million bond issue to finance construction of the new courthouse annex. The residents of Pulaski County voted in favor of building a new courthouse annex, but the bond issued to fund it did not pass. The Little Rock School Board considered it for office space, and the city of Little Rock was interested in razing the structure to create more surface parking. Others suggested that it become an art or history museum. In 1975 the Old Post Office and Courthouse was designated as a federal surplus property and by 1978 the courthouse underwent the first of several restorations.

I am proud to announce that GSA completed the federal courthouse ahead of schedule and under budget. The new courthouse provides 85, 660 square footage of indoor and outdoor public space for the great people of Little Rock to enjoy, more parking accessibility, and larger courtrooms and chambers with original marble mantles and coal-burning fireplaces. The GSA also commissioned a new sculpture that was constructed to the west of building that speaks to the resilience of the courthouse and the grit of the great people of Little Rock.

I truly want to thank our partners in congress for their continued support throughout this process. This new courthouse will bring greater efficiencies and future cost savings by continuing to eliminate leases across the region. This project is just one example of GSA delivering on our

goal of saving taxpayer money through better management of public real estate. As I mentioned before this is one of GSA's largest construction projects in our 70-year history. Thank you to all who played a role in the new courthouse building. Your efforts will be appreciated not only by judges and lawyers, but by those who are being served in the local community. It's an honor to be with you here today to celebrate this milestone. Thank you.

Thank you (MADAME HOST) for the warm introduction. I would like to thank Governor Hutchinson, Senators Cotton and Boozman, and Representatives Crawford, Hill, Womack, and Westerman for being here today. Thank you also to Chief Judge Brian Stacy Miller and the federal judiciary of the Eastern Arkansas District, whose service within these halls will honor the women and men who labored to build them.

The General Services Administration always seeks to maximize value for its hardworking, tax paying clients – the American people. “Value” does not always or only point to dollar figures, (though I might mention this project is on time and “in the black”). When partnering with the federal judiciary, “value” refers, in part, to the very legitimacy and credibility of our institutions.

Justice is a core competency of government. Our common consent to be governed by laws is conditioned by the process whereby those laws are enforced – and if necessary, challenged. A courthouse is a place for problems other public or private offices cannot settle.

A courthouse is a last resort. It holds the line.

Questions of fact, matters of process, and applications of our fundamental legal document, the Constitution: this is what’s at stake when you enter a federal courthouse.

Our clients, the American people, deserve judicial facilities that ensure their physical safety just as much as our system ensures their inalienable rights.

Our dedicated judiciary and staff want to deliver for the American people - we share the same clients.

The physical space and integrated technologies that allow the efficient delivery of justice reflect the strength of our underlying judicial process, and the American justice system is the envy of the world.

It’s to maximize value that the GSA Public Buildings Service relies on the Design Excellence program, and, ladies and gentlemen, I believe the results speak for themselves.

The General Services Administration Design Excellence program celebrates its 25th year in 2019, and the grand opening of (NAME) Federal Courthouse is a showcase of the collected effort and honest work of GSA’s finest talent. The Design Excellence program set high standards for this courthouse from start to finish, and it required those standards to be met in a collaborative process involving the local community right here in Little Rock. It met those standards in consultation with numerous professional architects from Arkansas and around the United States in a competitive process.

(NAME) Federal Courthouse, in which I am honored to be standing, is now the standard against which future federal construction projects may be measured.

Our mothers, fathers, daughters, and sons will seek, facilitate, and deliver justice within these walls for decades to come. They will argue and discuss matters of extreme importance. Inside this courthouse, ordinary women and men will decide extraordinary matters.

Saying “American justice is worth it” is not a blank check from the people to the people. The professional staff of the General Services Administration has honored its mission to the American people and fulfilled what was set out in its initial and subsequent appropriation requests. Modern technology, robust security, local involvement, a competitive process, ethical action, complete transparency: these are the services GSA delivers, and they benefit all American citizens.

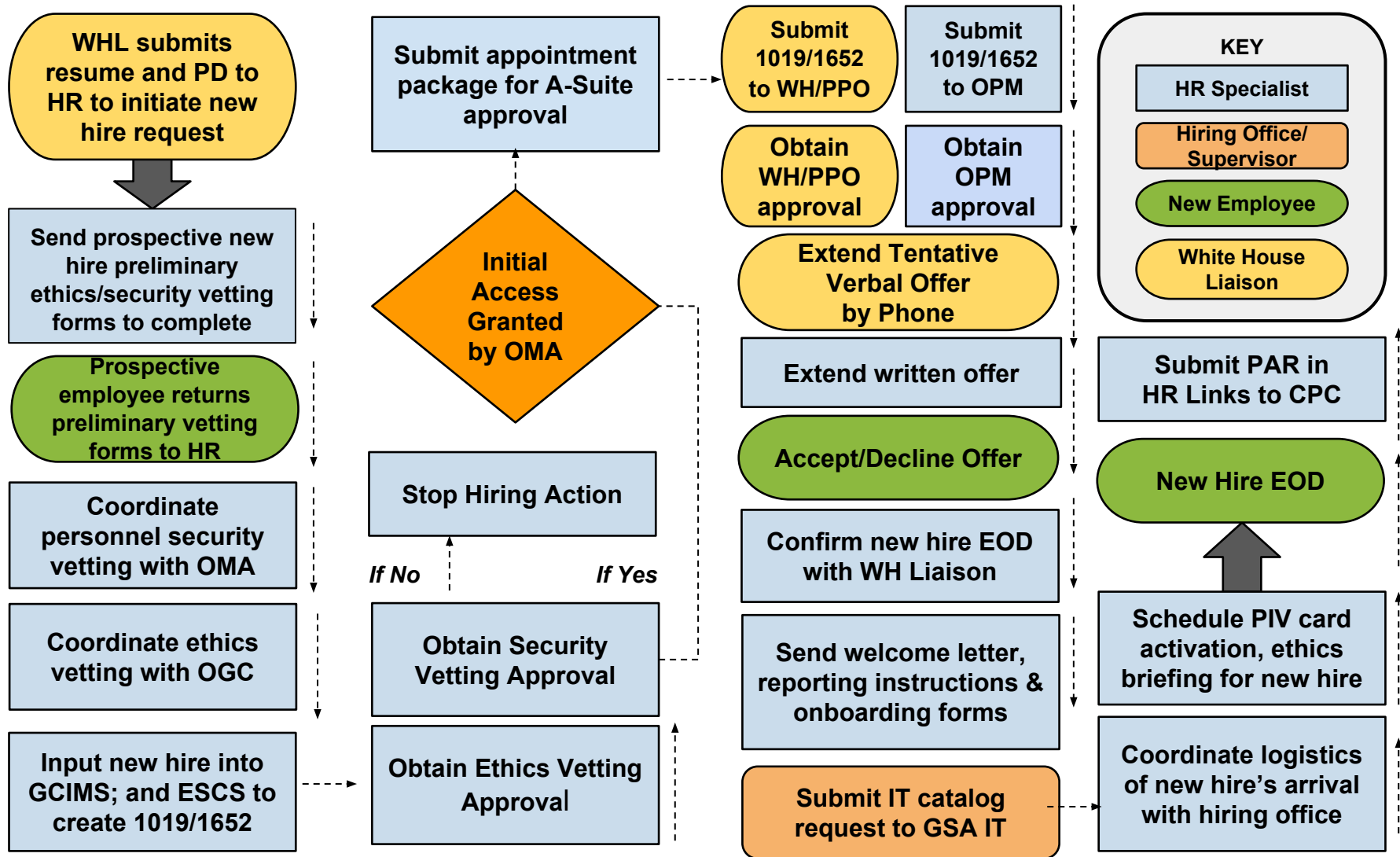
Let me say, it is a true pleasure to be present for this event. Many civil servants have the privilege of serving a career within the same organization. Many do not. Like wonders of the ancient world, temples, palaces, cathedrals, GSA professionals begin a federal construction project knowing its completion is in the hands of our successors, just as we also are entrusted with foundations laid by our predecessors.

Pen first hit paper on (NAME) Federal Courthouse in (YEAR). Ground was broken in (YEAR). A common vision of a modern and dignified hall of justice was carried through these years by too many people to thank by name.

On behalf of talented and hardworking GSA personnel, present and absent, and in partnership with the Federal Judiciary, Governor Hutchinson, and the Arkansas Delegation, we now entrust the (NAME) Federal Courthouse to the hardworking counsel, professional law enforcement, and noble staff of the Eastern District of Arkansas.

Thank you.

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Speechwriter

Serves within the General Services Administration (GSA), Office of Strategic Communication (OSC), Media Affairs Division, as the Writer-Editor (Speechwriter) for the Administrator, the Administrator's Suite, and other senior GSA leaders, providing editorial support for the GSA staff, and serving as the definitive authority for editorial reviews on sensitive written material and products developed throughout the organization. Reports to the Press Secretary and Deputy Associate Administrator for Media Affairs and serves in a close personal and confidential relationship to this official. Works under the policy guidance of this official and is evaluated on the basis of results achieved.

The employee regularly reviews written material for the organization for editorial quality and consistency and compliance with established style, format, and content to ensure that products adhere to the government style and format requirements. In addition, the employee regularly provides written material for a variety of audiences, including GSA staff, Congress, federal employees, private sector companies, and other stakeholders through speeches, scripts, blog posts, and talking points.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Regularly reviews work for the Administrator, the Administrator's Suite, and other senior GSA leaders before publication or signature for editorial quality and consistency and compliance with established style, format, and content guidance. Also reviews for accuracy, readability, audience, scope, and logic.

Develops, implements, and disseminates to GSA staff the agency's editorial policies, guidelines, and standards. Edits and writes other material including correspondence to members of Congress, regulations, speeches, presentations, talking points, and reference material, determining the adequacy of the content and source materials used, as well as the amount and type of information required by the audience. Ensures that messages are accurate and updated on a regularly recurring basis. Determines whether graphic material is needed and suggests how the material can be clearly presented.

The employee assists staff in preparing clear, accurate, and concisely written documents and provides detailed feedback to highlight strengths and areas for improvement. Ensures documents are aligned with agency messaging and suitable in terms of coverage, timing, balance, and method of expression. Coordinates proposed changes in approach, emphasis, or presentation to produce the necessary revisions, analyses, and recommendations. Editorial changes are generally accepted without question.

2. Provides support to the Administrator, the Administrator's Suite, and other senior GSA leaders for special projects and assignments, such as preparing decision papers, congressional testimony, research material, and presentations on a wide variety of issues. These projects have many different purposes and generally are in response to high-priority requests that require an extremely quick turnaround time. The work requires a high level of expertise to ensure that complex, potentially controversial, and politically sensitive issues are appropriately articulated because the final products constitute authoritative statements by the agency. Monitors agency report writing, identifies common problems and emerging trends, summarizes the information for the Administrator, and suggests ways to minimize report writing and publication costs. Prepares guidance to advise writers on how to recognize and correct common errors and weaknesses in writing and presents the information at agency meetings. Provides individual instruction and feedback to writers when senior managers identify a need.

3. Because of the potential impact of the work and the extremely high level of audience, occasions often arise when incumbent must revise presentation guidelines or procedures without benefit of precedence to ensure the timely issue of special reports. Establishes new presentation formats to ensure that material is presented clearly and with no possibility of misunderstanding. Disseminates the newly established formats to agency personnel.

Independently arranges work priorities and routines and defines the extent of work required during the edit process. Edits and certifies according to established agency guidelines for accuracy and completeness of subject matter and written material. Adjusts document tone and style to ensure audience suitability.

Maintains broad knowledge of agency material to allow edit of all agency products and ensure that documents thoroughly and consistently reflect GSA policies and standards. Understands the details of GSA's most technical and complex issues and takes care to ensure compete and cogent presentation of extremely complicated subject matters.

Ensures consistency of mechanics, expression, logical organization, development, and general readability. Ensures clarity and correctness of spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Ensures that documents conform to government printing and publishing standards. Ensures that submissions have appropriate classification markings and handling instructions.

4. Serves as the speechwriter for the Administrator and other principals. Researches, writes, and edits a variety of materials, including articles, speeches, news releases, training materials, brochures, and other products on the organization, mission, operations, history, objectives, interests, viewpoints, and needs of the organization. Gathers, develops, and checks the accuracy of information from a wide range of sources. Analyzes and selects pertinent information. Determines the most logical and effective use of the information. Determines the overall length and tone based on the objectives and the audience. Prepares assignments based on input from subject matter experts, often culling information from a number of sources. Determines the overall organization of the presentation and edits the information for clarity and accuracy. Prepares or arranges for graphics to support presentations. Establishes and maintains an electronic file of documents and related information. As necessary, the speechwriter performs additional research and rewrites submissions to organize, balance and apply a consistent sense of style, grammar, and flow to the finished product. Conducts presentations, writes speeches tailored to military audiences, communicates orally, and may be required to speak publicly.

Performs other duties as assigned.

KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED BY THE POSITION:

Knowledge of a broad range of sources and research methods to develop authoritative information on the programs and policies of the General Services Administration in order to independently prepare speeches, testimony, and other written documents for the GSA Administrator.

Complete knowledge of editorial and publishing policies and practices so as to serve as a GSA resource on these policies and practices to various program experts throughout the GSA who provide written input for speeches, testimony, and other documents for the Administrator and the Administrator's office.

Ability to coordinate, consolidate, and edit the work of others. Finished products are attributed to the highest level official of GSA and include such items as testimony presented to Congress and reports on major program efforts.

Ability to communicate creatively in writing and to design innovative ways to reach and persuade a variety of audiences on matters which may be complex or controversial.

SUPERVISORY CONTROLS:

The supervisor establishes the general objectives of the writing projects. The writer plans and completes written assignments subject to established GSA objectives, analyzes and interprets information gathered, and solves all but the most complex problems in presenting the information. This may involve developing new approaches or sources of information. The writer keeps the supervisor informed of unforeseen implications and unanticipated problems in completing the project. Written products are reviewed for overall effectiveness in meeting the objectives of the assignment.

GUIDELINES:

Policies provide some general guidance, but do not contain specific guidance on how to develop and present information. Because of the unusual or unique nature of each writing assignment, guidelines are scarce or nonexistent. The writer derives new methods of developing and/or presenting information to maximize understanding and minimize controversy among the intended audiences.

COMPLEXITY:

Writing and editing assignments typically require extensive research and analysis to define and explain the GSA's policies, programs, research findings, or requirements in detail or in overall form. Writing assignments often involve departures from commonly accepted theories or methods in the subject-matter field and require substantial analysis to present convincing evidence of new findings or to present accurate and critical information. Incumbent must stay abreast of GSA policy, programs and audience interests, as well as contemporary methods and trends in internal information and employee communication programs.

When highly technical materials are addressed and submitted by GSA professional staff, the writer/editor accepts and edits or rejects the submissions based upon the quality and progression of the written work or, in some cases, policy considerations. Since audiences may not be aware of new or changed programs or policies or may not agree with the proposals, presentations must be clear, persuasive, and specifically tailored to the particular audience at hand.

SCOPE AND EFFECT:

The purpose of this position is to perform research, and to prepare or edit written materials, often in the form of speeches or testimony for the Office of the Administrator through the Office of Communications and Marketing. Documents produced often explain new, often complex, programs and policies being adopted or advocated by the GSA. Information is prepared for a wide variety of audiences that are both national and international in scope. The work affects other top program officials of GSA who prepare input for written documents for the Administrator, and can influence decisions made by a wide variety of influential audiences described above.

This position is designated as a Moderate Public Trust position.